

10/216,017

Reply to Office Action of Feb. 5, 2004

Page 2

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (amended) A fastener, comprising:

~~a shank covered with a spiral set of teeth; and~~  
a flexible selectively compliant core material running internally to said ~~shank and along the length of said shank~~ spiral set of teeth; and

coupling means for connecting said flexible selectively compliant core material to said shank spiral set of teeth at both distal ends of said shank spiral set of teeth so that said fastener is laterally flexible along its length.

Claim 2 (original) The fastener of Claim 1, wherein said coupling means is welding.

Claim 3 (original) The fastener of Claim 1, wherein said coupling means is pinching.

Claim 4 (original) The fastener of Claim 1, wherein said flexible selectively compliant core material comprises innermost wires grouped and bound with wires spirally wound in opposing directions.

Claim 5 (original) The fastener of Claim 1, wherein said spiral set of teeth have a convex portion and a concave portion, wherein the convex portion is smaller than said concave portion.

10/216,017

Reply to Office Action of Feb. 5, 2004

Page 3

Claim 6 (original) The spiral set of teeth of Claim 5, wherein said convex portion of a lower layer of spiral teeth fits into said concave portion of an upper layer of spiral teeth.

Claim 7 (original) The fastener of Claim 1, wherein said spiral set of teeth interlock one into another.

Claim 8 (amended) A fastener, comprising:

~~a shank covered with~~ a spiral set of teeth; and  
a ~~flexible~~ selectively compliant core material running internally to said ~~shank~~ spiral set of teeth and along the length of said ~~shank~~ spiral set of teeth; and  
coupling means for connecting said ~~flexible~~ selectively compliant core material to said ~~shank~~ spiral set of teeth at both distal ends of said ~~shank~~ spiral set of teeth so that said fastener is laterally flexible along its length; and  
means at a distal end of said ~~shank~~ spiral set of teeth for imparting rotational movement thereto.

Claim 9 (original) The fastener of Claim 8, wherein said coupling means is welding.

Claim 10 (original) The fastener of Claim 8, wherein said coupling means is pinching.

Claim 11 (original) The fastener of Claim 8, wherein said means for imparting rotational movement is a bolt head.

Claim 12 (original) The fastener of Claim 8, wherein said means for imparting rotational movement is a screw head.

Claim 13 (original) The fastener of Claim 8, wherein said ~~flexible~~ selectively compliant core material comprises

10/216,017

Reply to Office Action of Feb. 5, 2004

Page 4

innermost wires grouped and bound with wires spirally wound in opposing directions.

Claim 14 (original) The fastener of Claim 8, wherein said spiral set of teeth have a convex portion and a concave portion, wherein the convex portion is smaller than said concave portion.

Claim 15 (original) The fastener of Claim 14, wherein said convex portion of a lower layer of spiral teeth fits into said concave portion of an upper layer of spiral teeth.

Claim 16 (original) The fastener of Claim 8, wherein said spiral set of teeth interlock one into another.